

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 271754Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2954

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08701

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EC, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEWS ON JULY 23 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS

MEETING

REF: COPENHAGEN 1690, BRUSSELS 4258, BONN 10595

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1. SUMMARY: BRITISH REGARD FRENCH DECISION TO GO ALONG WITH EC PARTNERS IN OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH US AS "VERY BIG BREAKTHROUGH." BRITISH WANT EC MEETING WITH NIXON TO YIELD JOINT STATEMENT OF BROAD POLITICAL PRINCIPLES. IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING, THEY WILL PRESS EC PARTNERS TO FORMULATE AGREED POSITIONS ON AS WIDE A RANGE OF SUBJECTS AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.
2. FCO (BUTLER AND MARSDEN) GAVE US AND CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE JOINT BRIEFING ON JULY 23 MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS. EMBOFF TRIED TO AVOID JOINT BRIEFING, BUT BUTLER ARRANGED IT ANYWAY, EXPLAINING THAT HIS DESIRE TO SEE US TOGETHER WAS DUE TO PRESSURE OF TIME AND HAD NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.
3. BUTLER OPENED BY READING TO US THE FIVE BASIC QUESTIONS WHICH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE (PC) HAD PREPARED FOR THE COPENHAGEN MEETING. HE ADDED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TO INFORMATION ALREADY REPORTED COPENHAGEN 1673 AND USNATO 3473, BUT DID CLAIM BRITISH AUTHORSHIP FOR THE FIRST QUESTION CALLING FOR A DEFINITION OF EC-9 IDENTITY VIS-A-VIS THE US. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A LONG-TERM PROJECT WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE READY BY THE SEPTEMBER 10-11 MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND THAT NO ONE COULD SEE NOW WHAT THE FINAL DOCUMENT WOULD EVENTUALLY LOOK LIKE, BUT HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE TASK OF DEFINING A "EUROPEAN IDENTITY" WAS FINALLY BEING UNDERTAKEN.
4. MORE URGENT, HE THOUGHT, WAS THE SECOND QUESTION CALLING FOR AGREEMENT AMONG THE EC-9 ON THOSE TOPICS WHICH THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH US. HERE, HE SAID, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE "MENTAL CONFUSION" AT THE MEETING. IRISH AND BELGIANS, FOR INSTANCE, EXPECT EC MERELY TO DRAW UP LIST OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED. BRITISH, FOR THEIR PART, ARE PUSHING EC TO WORK OUT COMMON POSITIONS ON AS MANY SUBJECTS AS POSSIBLE.
5. TO HELP OVERCOME FRENCH RESISTANCE TO EC-9 MEETING WITH NIXON, SIR ALEC PRESSED JOBERT NO FEWER THAN THREE TIMES AT COPENHAGEN SESSION, ACCORDING TO BUTLER. FORUM OF MEETING WILL PROBABLY BE DECIDED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS SEPTEMBER 10-11. BRITISH FAVOR FORMULA INCLUDING PRESIDENT OF COMMISSION, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, AND ALL

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R 271754Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2955

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08701

NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS, AS THIS WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE
TO TAKE UP BROAD POLITICAL QUESTIONS, AND NOT CONFINE
AGENDA TO ECONOMIC MATTERS.

6. BRITISH STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT EC-9 SHOULD HAVE A
FIRM IDEA OF WHAT KIND OF COMMUNIQUE THEY WANT TO SEE
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EMERGE FROM MEETING WITH NIXON. DANES ARE CHARGED WITH COMING UP WITH A DRAFT IN TIME FOR AUGUST 30 MEETING OF GROUP OF CORRESPONDENTS, AND WILL BE CONSULTING WITH EC MEMBERS BILATERALLY. WHEN QUERIED BY EMBOFF, BUTLER ADMITTED THAT DANES WERE IN FACT WORKING ON TWO DRAFTS, THE SECOND BEING AN EC-8 POSITION FOR NIXON MEETING WITH NATO. LATTER EXERCISE SEEMED TO CAUSE CANADIAN SOME HEARTBURN. HE LATER CONCEDED THAT CANADA WAS MILDLY APPREHENSIVE THAT EC-US DIALOGUE MIGHT IGNORE CANADIAN INTERESTS, WHEREUPON MARSDEN INVITED HIM TO COME IN TO FCO FREQUENTLY TO PRESENT CANADIAN VIEWS.

7. IN SUM, BUTLER TERMED FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH EC PARTNERS IN OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH US "A VERY BIG BREAKTHROUGH." FRENCH, HE SAID, HAVE IDEA THAT UK AND FRG ARE "IN US POCKET," AND THEREFORE FEEL OBLIGED TO DRAG THEIR FEET ON DIALOGUE. THIS VIEW WAS MISTAKEN, HE SAID, NOTING POINTEDLY THAT UK IS AS OPPOSED TO "GLOBALIZATION" OF ISSUES AS FRANCE AND WOULD RESIST ANY EFFORT BY US TO INCLUDE IN JOINT STATEMENT OF BROAD PRINCIPLES SPECIFIC EUROPEAN CONCESSIONS ON TRADE, FINANCE, OR BURDEN-SHARING.

8. AS A FINAL POINT AND OFF THE RECORD, BUTLER COMMENTED THAT ANDERSON'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF JULY 23 MEETING HAD BEEN A "SHAMBLES." QUESTIONS PREPARED BY PC WERE NEVER ADDRESSED IN ANY ORDERLY MANNER, AND ANSWERS, SUCH AS THEY WERE, EMERGED FROM HAPHAZARD DISCUSSION IN RATHER IMPRECISE FORM.

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